

REMARKS

The Office Action of October 11, 2005, has been carefully considered. Claim 1 has been amended to include a limitation that the shaft connects the grip to the head. New Claims 27-35 have been added. The Applicant believes that no new matter has been added.

Election/Restrictions

Claims 9 and 14-26 have been withdrawn.

Rejections Based on 35 USC § 102

The Office Action has rejected Claims 1-2, 10, and 13 under 35 USC § 102(e) as anticipated by Schoeninger (US 2005/0197201). The Applicant herewith provides a declaration of prior invention under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 1, 10, and 13 and advance Claims 1, 2, 10, and 13 to allowance.

The Office Action has rejected Claims 1 and 11 under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by 2001-310002. Claim 1 includes a limitation that:

"a grip;
a shaft connecting the grip to the head; and
a sliding grip portion adapted to slide on the grip."

2001-310002 described a sliding grip which slides on a shaft and abuts a higher stationary grip. Because Claim 1 describes a sliding grip which slides on another grip and not on the shaft, the Applicant believes that Claim 1 is in condition for allowance

and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claim 1 and advance Claim 1 toward allowance.

Claim 11 depends from Claim 1. Because the Applicant believes that Claim 1 is in condition for allowance, the Applicant also believes that Claim 11 is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claim 11 and advance Claim 11 toward allowance.

The Office Action has rejected Claims 1 and 12 under 35 USC § 102(e) as anticipated by Kallassy (US 6,599,200). Kallassy describes a sliding grip 20 which slides on a shaft 12 and abuts a higher stationary grip 14. Because Claim 1 describes a sliding grip which slides on another grip and not on the shaft, Applicant believes that Claim 1 is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claim 1 and advance Claim 1 toward allowance.

Claim 12 depends from Claim 1. Because the Applicant believes that Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance, the Applicant also believes that Claim 12 is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claim 12 and advance Claim 12 toward allowance.

Rejections Based on 35 USC § 103

The Office Action has rejected Claims 3 and 4 under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Schoeninger (US 2005/0197201). The Applicant herewith provides a declaration of prior invention under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 3 and 4 and advance Claims 3 and 4 to allowance.

The Office Action has rejected Claims 5 and 6 under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Schoeninger in view of Gibbon. The Applicant herewith provides a

declaration of prior invention under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 with respect to Schoeninger. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 5 and 6 and advance Claims 5 and 6 to allowance.

The Office Action has rejected Claims 7 and 8 under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Schoeninger in view of Sosin. The Applicant herewith provides a declaration of prior invention under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 with respect to Schoeninger. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 7 and 8 and advance Claims 7 and 8 to allowance.

CONCLUSIONS

Claims 1-8, and 10-13 remain pending in the application. The rejections of 1-8, and 10-13 have been respectfully traversed. Claim 1 has been amended to explicitly recite the implicit connection of elements. Claims 9 and 14-26 have been withdrawn subject to an election. New Claims 27-35 have been added. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner advance Claims 1-8, 10-13, and 27-35 to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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